

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting the moisture variation in a composition, ~~characterized in that it comprises a step of comprising~~
_____ incorporating a saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose into said composition in an amount of at least one percent to the total weight of said composition on a dry solid basis.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is composed of any of mono-glucose, di-glucose, tri-glucose, and tetra-glucose bound to at least one of glucose residues of α,α -trehalose molecule.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is a saccharide having a trehalose structure as an end unit.

4. (currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein said~~

saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is in an amorphous form.

5. (currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is incorporated into said composition in combination with ~~another saccharide~~ at least one other saccharide selected from the group consisting of reducing saccharides, non-reducing saccharides, sugar alcohols, and water-soluble polysaccharides.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A composition obtainable by the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (original) The composition of claim 8, characterized in that said composition is in the form of a member selected from the group consisting of food products, cosmetics, medicated cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, daily goods, feeds, pet foods, baits, groceries, and chemical industrial products.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A moisture variation inhibiting agent, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising

a saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose in an amount of at least 10% to the total weight of the agent, on a dry solid basis.

13. (original) The moisture variation inhibiting agent of claim 12, characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is a member selected from the group consisting of mono-glucose, di-glucose, tri-glucose and tetra-glucose, each of which is bound to at least one of glucose molecules of α,α -trehalose molecule.

14. (original) The moisture variation inhibiting agent of claim 12 or 13, characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is a saccharide having a trehalose structure as an end unit.

15. (currently amended) The moisture variation inhibiting agent of ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein said saccharide-derivative of~~ α,α -trehalose is in a ~~form of an~~ amorphous form.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The moisture variation inhibiting agent of ~~claim 16~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~another saccharide is~~ saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is incorporated in combination with at least one ~~or more members~~ other saccharide selected from the group consisting of reducing saccharides, non-reducing saccharides, sugar alcohols, and water-soluble polysaccharides.

18-39. (canceled)

40. (new) A process for producing a composition whose moisture variation is inhibited, which comprises incorporating a saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose into said composition in an amount of at least one percent to the total weight of said composition, on a dry solid basis.

41. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is composed of any of mono-glucose, di-glucose, tri-glucose, and tetra-glucose bound to at least one of glucose residues of α,α -trehalose molecule.

42. (New) The process of claim 40 or 41, wherein said saccharide- derivative of α,α -trehalose is a saccharide having a trehalose structure as an end unit.

43. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is in an amorphous form.

44. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said saccharide-derivative of α,α -trehalose is incorporated into said composition in combination with another saccharide.

45. (New) The process of claim 44, wherein said another saccharide is one or more members selected from the group consisting of reducing saccharides, non-reducing saccharides, sugar alcohols, and water-soluble polysaccharides.

46. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of a member selected from the group consisting of food products, cosmetics, medicated cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, daily goods, feeds, pet foods, baits, groceries, and chemical industrial products.